

Merits of Bullet Train Projects

What is the issue?

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- The recent launch of the highly expensive Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail (HSR) project has drawn criticisms of being elitist.

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- However, a closer scrutiny reveals the many opportunities and advantages of the bullet train projects.

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What are the benefits?

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- The project provides for Japan to transfer the Shinkansen **technology**.

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- Besides, it will also train Indian workforce in sophisticated construction technologies, providing a fillip to **Make-in-India**.

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- As an aspirational project, HSR will help IR build international standards of engineering and services.

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- Also, HSR technology is **environmentally benign** and addresses the concerns of depleting fossil fuel reserves, climate change, etc.

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- HSR facilitates a much lower **energy consumption** per passenger km.

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- As, it emits one-eighth of carbon dioxide that cars emit and one-fifth of airplanes per passenger km.

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- Besides, it comes as an alternative in the context of overcrowded airports, delayed flights and congested roads.

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- It requires much less land than motorways and thus has more **passenger carrying capacity**.

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- By helping alleviate migration to metropolises, it can be a catalyst for economic growth and be a stimulus for the development of satellite towns.
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- The development of important centres along the route can facilitate a wide range of economic activity, providing **jobs**.
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- By providing services from and to city centres, it has the potential to boost tourism, escalate property values, and aid the growth of services sector in new areas.
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Source: Financial Express

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